



Media Advisory

For Immediate Release
August 25, 2009

Contact: Hilda M. Delgado
(562) 927-1200 - office
(213) 700-3142 - cell
Shelly Gesicki
(831) 224-4140 - cell

Assemblymembers De La Torre, Caballero, Monning, and health community leaders announce permanent funding of \$1.5 million annually to encourage doctors to serve in low-income communities

Salinas's Natividad Medical Center will benefit from Thompson Program

Salinas, Calif. –Assemblymember Hector De La Torre alongside community leaders welcome Dr. Minerva Perez-Lopez to Natividad Medical Center as a participating doctor in the Steven M. Thompson Program. The Program was created to address physician shortages in low-income communities across the State of California. The Program encourages doctors to serve in low-income and rural communities, by granting loan forgiveness to those who commit to practice in inner-city and rural communities for at least three years. The Foundation awarded 16 grants in July, and Natividad's Dr. Perez-Lopez alongside thousands of patients in Monterey County will benefit from the program.

WHO: Hector De La Torre, Assemblymember, 50th District
Anna M. Caballero, Assemblymember, 28th District
William W. Monning, Assemblymember, 27th District
Fernando Armenta, Monterey County Board of Supervisors, 1st District
Lou Calcagno, Monterey County Board of Supervisors, 2nd District
Simon Salinas, Monterey County Board of Supervisors, 3rd District
Jane Parker, Monterey County Board of Supervisors, 4th District
Harry Weis, CEO, Natividad Medical Center
Dr. Minerva Perez-Lopez, Thompson Program Physician

WHAT: Announce permanent funding of \$1.5 million annually to the Steven M. Thompson Program. Applauds Dr. Minerva Perez-Lopez, a Salinas native, as a participating physician in the Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program in Monterey.

WHEN: **Friday, August 28, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.**

WHERE: **Natividad Medical Center**
1441 Constitution Blvd
Main Lobby, Building 500
Salinas, CA 93906

Background:

Assemblymember De La Torre authored Assembly Bill 2439 that generates more than \$1.5 million per year to fund the Thompson Program from a mandatory \$25 fee from physicians, when they renew their license in the State of California. The Program will provide an estimated \$105,000 in loan reimbursements per physician to practice medicine in under-served communities throughout California.

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